

Rewrite claim 7 as follows:

D2 7. (Once Amended) The singles stick of claim 6, wherein the locking pin is carried on a spring finger connected to one of the base and staff, the spring finger having a bias tending to engage the locking pin with the at least one hole when the at least one hole is aligned with the locking pin.

Rewrite claim 10 as follows:

D3 10. (Once Amended) The singles stick of claim 11, wherein the base and staff have a combined length in the collapsed position which is short enough to allow the singles stick to be stored in a tennis player's equipment bag which bag is sized to be at least slightly longer than a tennis racket.

Rewrite claim 11 as follows:

D4 11. (Thrice Amended) A singles stick for holding the top edge of a tennis net at its regulation height above the ground for singles play, which comprises:

(a) a plurality of telescopically received sections including at least one first, hollow section into which a second section is telescopically received such that the first and second sections can be extended between an extended orientation and a collapsed orientation by telescoping the first and second sections relative to one another;

(b) a lock for releasably holding the telescopic sections together in at least the extended position, wherein the lock is responsive to movement of the telescopic sec-

tions with the lock being biased to automatically move into a locking engagement with the telescopic sections whenever the telescopic sections are placed in their extended position; and

04 (c) wherein the combined length of the telescopic sections in the locked extended position thereof is sufficiently long to permit the telescopic sections to be wedged between a top support cord or cable of a tennis net with the telescopic sections being held in place solely by downward force from the top support cord or cable forcing the telescopic sections into engagement with the ground, and wherein the telescopic sections can be wedged between the top support cord or cable and the ground at a location between a singles line and doubles line on one side of a tennis court and when so wedged the combined length of the telescopic sections will raise the top support cord or cable of the tennis net by an amount required to provide a height that conforms to singles play rules.

Rewrite claim 20 as follows:

05 20. (Twice Amended) A singles stick for holding the top edge of a tennis net at its regulation height above the ground for singles play, which comprises:

(a) a base and a staff which are slidably and telescopically connected to one another such that the base and staff can be extended between an extended position and a collapsed position by sliding the base and staff relative to one another, wherein the base and staff have mating non-circular cross-sectional configurations to prevent the base and staff from rotating relative to one another;

(b) a lock for releasably holding the base and staff together in both the extended and collapsed positions, the

lock comprising first and second vertically spaced holes which receive a locking pin with the locking pin releasably holding the base and staff together in the extended and collapsed positions thereof depending upon which of the first and second vertically spaced holes receives the locking pin;

(c) wherein the combined length of the base and staff in the locked extended position thereof is sufficiently long to permit the base and staff to be wedged between a top support cord or cable of a tennis net with the base and staff being held in place solely by downward force from the top support cord or cable forcing the base and staff into engagement with the ground, and wherein the base and staff can be wedged between the top support cord or cable and the ground at a location between a singles line and doubles line on one side of a tennis court and when so wedged the combined length of the base and staff will raise the top support cord or cable of the tennis net by an amount required to provide a height that conforms to singles play rules; and

(d) wherein the combined length of the base and staff in the locked collapsed position thereof is short enough to allow the singles stick to be stored in a tennis player's equipment bag which bag is sized to be at least slightly longer than a tennis racket.

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Remarks

The telephonic interview with Examiner Hunter and Supervisory Primary Examiner Sewell on May 7, 2002 is gratefully acknowledged by the undersigned attorney.

Certain claims have been canceled without prejudice to narrow the issues with the Examiner. Certain other claims originally dependent from claim 1 have been amended as appropriate to depend from claim 11.